

**Medical Licensing Board of Indiana
Indiana Government Center - South Building
Room W064
402 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**Minutes from the Meeting of
April 24, 2025**

Kirk Masten, D.O. Vice President, called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and declared a quorum in accordance with IC 25-26-13-3(d), pursuant to public notice posted at the principal office for the Board, online at the board's website and on the state calendar at least forty-eight (48) hours before the time of the meeting.

Board Members Present:

Kirk Masten, DO
Heidi Dunniway, MD
Michael Busk, MD
Bharat Barai, MD
Victoria McCann, JD

Board Members Absent:

John Strobel, MD
Rebecca Mueller, MD

PLA Staff:

Nick Hart, JD, Deputy Director
Kiko Dixon, Assistant Board Director

Advisory Counsel:

Adam Harvey, JD

Court Reporter:

Accurate Reporting – Margie Addington

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda. Barai/McCann 5-0-0.

Adoption of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the minutes from March 27, 2025. McCann/Barai 5-0-0.

Discussion:

A motion was made and seconded to refer Moore Cause No. 2023 MLB 0001 to OAG for collections. Barai/Dunniway 5-0-0.

Administrative Hearings

Proposed Settlement Agreement

Kenneth Pherson, D.O., 02003531A Cause No.: 2025 02 MED 0006

DAG: Rebekah Hammond

Respondent: Failed to appear

Exhibit(s): None

Complied with FL agreed order, Dr. Pherson needs to connect with ISMA in 30 days and connect with FL PHP program.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE proposed settlement agreement placing license on INDEFINITE SUSPENSION with terms and conditions.

McCann/Busk 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Default

Francis Joseph, M.D., 01049726A Cause No.: 2024 MLB 0011

DAG: Ryan Eldridge

Respondent: Failed to appear

Witness: Andrea Mills OAG Investigator

Exhibit(s): State's Exhibit 1 – Colorado Court Documents
State's Exhibit 2 – Colorado Non-Disciplinary Interim Cessation of Practice Agreement
State's Exhibit 3 – Wisconsin Disciplinary Documents
State's Exhibit 4 – Illinois Disciplinary Documents

Theft and embezzlement of self-care practice and wire fraud. Convicted by a jury in January 2023 of four counts. 30 months of each count to be served consecutively in federal prison.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE motion of proposed default.

Barai/McCann 5-0-0

Motion carries.

A motion was made and seconded to REVOKE license and impose a one-thousand dollar (\$1000) fine for each count.

Barai/McCann 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

James Ranochack, M.D., 01026732A Cause No.: 2025 01 MED 003

DAG: Natalie Stidd

Respondent: Failed to appear

Exhibit(s): State's Exhibit 1 – Indictment
State's Exhibit 2 – Plea Agreement
State's Exhibit 3 – Judgement
State's Exhibit 4 – January 27, 2025 email from Dr. Ranochak
State's Exhibit 5 – March 21, 2025 email from Dr. Ranochak

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE motion for proposed default.

McCann/Busk 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

January 2025 – indicted by federal court for conspiracy to dispense controlled substances
License expired 2017, state cannot convict on license as a practitioner. January 2012 - January 2013
are looking to convict while they were working at Pharmacy Wellness. IAC 21-C-41A, IAC 856 2-6-3,
IAC 844 5-2-5, IC 25-1-9-4a (13)

A motion was made and seconded to Approve positive finding Count 1
Barai/Dunniway 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

A motion was made and seconded to Approve positive finding Count 2
Dunniway/Busk 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

A motion was made and seconded to Approve positive finding Count 3
Busk/McCann 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

A motion was made and seconded to Approve positive finding Count 4
Barai/McCann 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

A motion was made and seconded to Approve positive finding Count 5
Busk/Dunniway 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE motion of proposed default.
McCann/Busk 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

A motion was made and seconded to REVOKE license and impose a one-thousand dollar fine (\$1000)
per count in 90 days.
Barai/McCann 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

Summary Suspension

Aman Patel, D.O., 02006207A Cause No.: 2025 02 MED 0009

DAG: Rebekah Hammond
Respondent: Failed to appear
Witness: Cassie McDaniel OAG Investigator (for state)
Exhibit(s): State's Exhibit 1 – Maryland Court Documents

20 state suspensions, 19 criminal charges were originally filed in February 2025, criminal charges are
still pending as of March 28, 2025, in Maryland, Maryland license is still on suspension

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE summary suspension 90-day extension.
Barai/Dunniway 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

Benjamin R. Loveridge, M.D., 01066134A Cause No.: 2015 MLB 0013

DAG: None
Respondent: Appeared with counsel, John Tompkins
Witness: None
Exhibit(s): None

April 18, 2019, summary suspension was extended by agreement June 2020. When the reinstatement is submitted and in an "Expired" status, will have to reappear before the board as an administrative hearing.

A motion was made and seconded to VACATE summary suspension.
Barai/McCann 5-0-0.
Motion Carries.

Reinstatement Hearing

Eric C. Jones, M.D., 01047098A Cause No.: 2015 MLB 0013

DAG: Alex James
Respondent: Appeared with counsel, Lauren Parmley
Witnesses: Robert Rudicel, M.D. (for Respondent), Stephen Frank, D.C. (for Respondent), Polly Westcott, Psy.D., HSPP (for Respondent), John Lee, M.D. (for Respondent), Janie Hubble, MSW, LCSW (for Respondent), Michael Meng, M.D. (for Respondent), Dr. Eric Jones, Evan Bartel (on behalf of ISMA)
Exhibit(s): Respondent's Exhibit A – Indiana Medical Board Final Order April 14, 2016
Respondent's Exhibit B – LOR from Dr. Robert T. Rudicel
Respondent's Exhibit C – LOR from Dr. Stephen Frank DC
Respondent's Exhibit D – Indiana Health Group Independent Psychological Evaluation
Respondent's Exhibit E – Screen shots of course registration
Respondent's Exhibit F – Letter from proposed monitor Dr. John Lee
Respondent's Exhibit G – Receipt for payment to PLA for fine and fees
Respondent's Exhibit H – CME Certificates
Respondent's Exhibit I – Letter from Janie R Hubble, MSW, LCSW

March 7, 2025, submission of reinstatement. Dr. Lee is the practice monitor, longtime friends in medical school, parents were friends. Dr. Lee feels that not only would he have a good personal, but professional relationship with Dr. Jones. Currently going to be reviewing medical screenings in a chiropractor's office. As practice monitor, he does not feel that there are issues seeing female patients. EM part time in St. Vincent Elwood, IN. Will not be in the chiropractor office, but chiropractors will report to Dr. Lee.

Dr. Meng (family physician) works in St. Vincent in Pendleton has diagnosed Dr. Jones with depression, yearly screening, maintained on generic Wellbutrin and is currently in control. Dr. Meng provided Dr. Jones a list of psychiatrists last year but does not have office records that Dr. Jones is seeing a psychiatrist.

Used to practice as Medical Director for Hoosier Health Plus (Chiropractor Office). Is wanting to return Hoosier Health Plus (downtown Anderson) – entrance physical exams, diagnosing, recommending treatments. Has no plans to work full time in family medicine. Grandson of the office is the same age as his youngest son. Is aware that he will not be able to prescribe controlled substances. Desires to eventually work at a CVS Minute Clinic. Chiropractors are aware that he will be under a practice monitor.

Dr. Holly Westcott was recommended by the board and completed a one-day psych visit in September 2024. Dr. Westcott did feel that Dr. Jones could go back to practice as a physician and seek counsel. Dr. Jones is currently seeing Dr. Janie Hubble (34000722A) 2x/month at Rooted Souls.

Could not complete a reentry program due to the status of his license. Dr. Rudicel let Dr. Jones shadow at the pediatrician office flow at Community Health.

Has been shadowing chiropractor, Dr. Frank at Hoosier Health.
Has been working on 400+ AMA CEUS and lectures

2017 – Received a DUI, wasn't seeing a counselor at that time and not on anti-depressants. Was looking to "feel" better.

Social circle: 4 kids and wife still live together

Wants to help low income and homelessness population in downtown Anderson, IN

Would like to be able to see female patients and not opposed to a chaperone in the room when seeing female patients. Will have no direct contact with patients (CareSource will not consider application unless he has an active license).

The practice monitor does not know the explicit detail and the "gist" of things about Dr. Jones's case.

Has not practiced since April 2016, re-entry programs Dr. Jones is trying to seek a probationary license.

Stated that he attempted CPEP but CPEP would not allow entry without an active license.

Practice Monitoring: Chart reviews and communicate with the chiropractors to Dr. Lee if there are any issues.

Evan: November 2010 completed ISMPA PAP successfully

Board Discussion:

More formal education: Drexel or CPEP for baseline

No Chiropractor can monitor an M.D. in the 2016 Order

CPEP: Ethics and Boundary Course and other CPEP

DUI was in 2018, ISMA completed in 2010, has had no ISMA evaluation since then

Monitor: 20-30 miles away, has not practiced family medicine, and on site

Modify 2016 Order:

Stage 1: Educational component San Diego course, CPEP, Drexel

Stage 2: Monitor on site must be M.D./D.O., Group Practice, What location, No females, ISMA Evaluation

A motion was made and seconded to DENY to reinstatement of license until terms of the 2016 order have been completed with additional terms monitor on site must be M.D./D.O. at a group practice, no females, ISMA evaluation, educational component (Drexel must pass), complete CPEP.

Masten/Barai 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

James Pucka, D.C., 81000009A Cause No.: 2025 02 MED 0008

DAG: None

Respondent: Appeared with counsel, Scotty Teal

Witnesses: None

Exhibit(s): Respondent's Exhibits A-F

Scotty Teal provided physical copies of exhibits A-F.

May 1, 2023: Chiropractor license was suspended, Acupuncture license should have been suspended

November 12, 2024: Chiropractor license reinstated on probation

Requesting for license on probation similar to status of Chiropractor Board

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE to reinstate license on PROBATION per November 2024 Chiropractic Board.

Barai/Dunniway 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Personal Appearances

Initial Application

Charles Fennie, D.O.

Reason: Board requested 3-6 months working as a surgeon in OH, renew OH license, provide a letter of intent from employer and letters of recommendation. Originally January 23, 2025, for previous termination of employment.

Dr. Fennie has provided letters of recommendation to the board. Termination of previous employment without cause.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the issuance of this license.

Masten/McCann 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Esther Schmuel, M.D. - CONTINUED

Jerry Cattellane Jr., D.O.

June 2015 was the last medical malpractice. Transitioning to full-time telemedicine to move out of corporate EM Doctors Now. Based out of FL. EM since 2001. Currently licensed in 48 states. 10-20 per/day or 60-70/day. WV and IN no license. Board eligible for EM but not board certified. Not certified in specialty.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the issuance of this license.

Dunniway/Busk 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Robert Krug, M.D.

Reason: CT 2023 Consent Order

Counsel: Laura Iosue

Physiatrist and involvement with MS programs

2017-2019, going through a divorce and began professional relationship with Ms. A that became a romantic relationship. Botox takes about 5-7 days for body to regulate, the primary physician for Ms. A was unavailable and asked Dr. Krug to provide the botox before her marathon race.

They break up after Ms. A is in a car accident and wanted to sue the driver of the car. Asked Dr. Krug to assist with Ms. A on documentation to pursue suing the driver.

Mandel Center would not give her the prescription. Ms. A believed that Dr. Krug gave the Medical Assistant the EOM award out of spite to Ms. A. Ms. A filed a complaint to CT Medical Board. CT reviewed the documentation service asked of Dr. Krug and the November 2019 botox injection. 2021 Stepped down from Medical Director at Mandel Center. He entered a Consent Order with no restrictions and wrongdoing.

Dr. Krug took the boundary course. Wants to be in Indiana because his daughter is attending IU Bloomington and has a prospect of employment in Bloomington. Would like to return to inpatient rehabilitation.

Last practiced in-patient care five years ago. He practiced as a consultant and providing operational guidance around the country. Less than 10 patients in less than a year for in-patient. Has been engaged in clinical reviews.

Will be a consultant and medical director. Private equity group that is in Elkhart, IN who will be doing his billing and credentials. Has no interest in practicing outside of rehabilitation.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the issuance of this license.
Barai/Dunniway 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

Ryan Bernal, M.D.

Reason: Active Military, No Active License

Is currently in the U.S. Airforce and a PGT Y2. Currently stationed at Wright Patterson Airforce. As a federal employee they need a medical license. Currently he does not know where he will be deployed to.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the issuance of this license.
Barai/McCann 5-0-0.
Motion carries.

Tracy Maier, M.D.

Reason: Terminated from July 2024 employment

Originally started in 2022 as a Pediatrician in Rochester Regional Health. Was hired on to assist Dr. Yirinic. Position was terminated because there were not enough patients in her panel. Could be terminated at any time.

March 2025 is currently reviewing pediatric disability for the NY Social Security Office. March 2025 mobile research assistant for clinical trials (physician and nurse at home vs research facility). She wants to work with NPs in Indiana as a collaborator. NY does not allow her entry into the IMLCC.

Applicant requested application be withdrawn.

Tyler Wise, M.D.

Reason: No active license, currently finishing NY residency training

Finishing residency in NY on June 5th. Wife entered in fellowship in pediatrics in Lurey, Chicago. Has a job opportunity in NW Indiana through Vituity. Will take a written exam in the fall and will take in-person boards.

Presbyterian Hospital and Cornell Hospital

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE the issuance of this license.
Masten/Dunniway 4-0-0.
Motion carries.

Yusuf Rullah, M.D.

Reason: 2021 – 2024 CA Probation

Appeared with counsel, Stacy Walton Long

10+ years in family medicine physician

Dr. Rullah was a collaborator of a PA with issues with the PA and controlled substances. Was on probation for supervision of a PA.

Dr. Rullah has worked with a practice monitor and under a PACE monitoring program.

October 9, 2024, has been returned to full and unrestricted status with early termination. Currently still acting as CMO and providing telehealth services.

Dr. Rullah and his wife have relocated to the Midwest per his wife's relocation of employment in Hillside, IL. No current employment IN opportunities but wants to work as a clinicalist and out-patient. IL license is pending a probationary status. Does not have a clear understanding in why IL is putting on them on IL. WY is free and clear with notification to the board

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE issuance of this license if IL decides to approve license on probation. Will need to reappear before the board if IL license is put on probation.

McCann/Barai 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Reinstatement Application

John Cummings Jr., M.D., 01031912A

Reason: 2022 Med Mal, 2024 MedMal, Failure to appear 1.25.24, Failure to appear 2.22.24, Denied 2023 Renewal

Failed to appear.

A motion was made and seconded to DENY reinstatement of this license.

Masten/Dunniway 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Robert Buell, M.D., 01057758A

Reason: No Verification of Employment

Neurologist in sleep medicine physician

Northern Indiana Veteran's Affairs, Locums opportunity

Had eligible for retirement and took it from OH VA in February after 15 years

Wife's parents are in Indianapolis and has a daughter who will be starting high school

Dr. Joseph, Chief of Neurology

Worked in Columbus, IN, and moved to Columbus, OH. Let IN license lapse. Still currently resides in Columbus, IN.

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE reinstatement license.

McCann/Busk 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Suzanne Pattison, R.D., 37001826A

Reason: No license since 2016, Violation of statute IC 25-14.5-7-3

75 hours CEUS in CDR

Been working in a school system as a substitute teacher

Pendleton Health and Wellness, setting up diets and meal planning from 2021 – 2022, employer did not require a license

Licensed expired because she is a stay at home mom

Must be a registered dietitian for employment in Fort Wayne, IN

A motion was made and seconded to APPROVE reinstatement of this license.

Dunniway/McCann 5-0-0.

Motion carries.

Adjournment 2:25 p.m.